

In The Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-10 and 15-22. Please add the following new Claims 23-33. A complete listing of the claims is set out below with proper claim identifiers.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A decorative cap and a wheel fastener for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

- a) a fastener insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;
- b) said body including one section having an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis;
- c) said body including another section having an external surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section encircling said axis; and
- d) a cap including one wall segment having an internal surface with a polygonal cross-section;
- e) said cap including another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section;
- f) said cap being formed of sheet metal which is deformable both plastically and elastically;
- g) said circular cylindrical cross-section internal surface of said cap having a predetermined inside diameter;
- h) said circular cylindrical cross-section external surface of said insert body having a predetermined outside diameter;
- i) said predetermined inside diameter being sufficiently less than said predetermined outside diameter whereby said other wall segment of said cap is adapted to fit onto said insert such that said other wall segment is plastically and elastically deformed with said elastic deformation forming at least a 0.002 inches interference fit around the interfering cylindrical surfaces to provide a tensile hoop stress to hold the cap on the body.

24. (New) The cap and fastener of Claim 23 further characterized in that:
- a) said external surfaces of said insert body are coated with an anti-oxidant material; and
 - b) said anti-oxidant material coating is approximately 0.001 inches thick.
25. (New) The cap and fastener of Claims 22 further characterized in that:
- a) said external and internal circular cylindrical cross-section surfaces are free of adhesive material.
26. (New) The decorative cap and wheel fastener of Claim 22 further characterized in that:
- a) said cap is formed of stainless steel sheet.
27. (New) The cap and fastener of Claim 22 further characterized in that:
- a) said elastic deformation of said other wall segment is adapted to form between 0.002 and 0.006 inches interference fit around the interfering cylindrical surfaces.
28. (New) The cap and fastener of Claim 22 further characterized in that:
- a) said internal polygonal surface is adapted to be seated over said external polygonal surface on said insert in a non-interference fit relationship.
29. (New) A method of assembling a decorative cap and wheel fastener for a vehicle wheel, comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a wheel fastener including an insert body having threads formed thereon encircling the axis of said body;
 - b) forming an external surface with a polygonal cross-section encircling said axis on one section of said body;
 - c) forming an external surface with a circular, cylindrical cross-section of predetermined diameter encircling said axis on another section of said body;
 - d) forming a decorative cap for said wheel fastener from sheet metal which is plastically and elastically deformable, said cap being formed with one wall

segment having an internal surface with polygonal cross-section and another wall segment having an internal surface with a circular cylindrical cross-section, the circular cylindrical internal surface having an inside diameter which is sufficiently smaller than the predetermined diameter of said external surface so that when the cap and insert are press fit together, said cap elastically deforms at least 0.002 inches around the interfering cylindrical surfaces to provide a tensile hoop force sufficient to hold the cap securely on the body; and

e) press fitting said insert and said cap together so that said other wall segment of said cap encircles said other section of said insert body in an interference fit and said one wall segment of said cap encircles said one section of said insert body.

30. (New) The method of Claim 29 further characterized by and including the step of:

a) forming said decorative cap from stainless steel sheet material having a nominal thickness about 0.018 inches to 0.020 inches.

31. (New) The method of Claim 29 further characterized by and including the step of:

coating at least one of said circular cylindrical external and internal surfaces with an anti-oxidant material which is chromium free.

32. (New) The method of Claim 29 further characterized by and including the step of:

a) press fitting said insert and cap together without an adhesive between said circular cylindrical surfaces.

33. (New) The method of Claim 29 further characterized in that:

a) when said insert and cap are press fit together, said one wall segment of said cap encircles said one section of said insert body in a non-interference relationship.